

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AZERBAIJAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Republican of Azerbaijan for the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, which was celebrated on May 28, 2018.

In the Republic of Azerbaijan, May 28th is known as the "Republic Day". This past Republic Day celebrated the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the first secular parliamentary republic in the Muslim VWorld.

In 1991, the United States recognized Azerbaijan as an independent state following the collapse of the Soviet Union, and established diplomatic relations the following year. I would like to highlight that, over the last 26 years, Azerbaijan has established itself as a reliable friend of the United States. Since the attacks of September 11, 2001, Azerbaijan has been a critical ally of the United States in combating international terrorism through several joint U.S.-Azerbaijani operations in Afghanistan, the Balkans, and Iraq.

On a more international level, Azerbaijan has strong economic, military, and strategic ties to Israel, representing one of Israel's greatest allies in the region. Azerbaijan's energy sector is also key to combating Russian influences across the region. Altogether, the country plays a critical role in the diversification of energy routes, and helps support allies of the United States' allies by doing so.

I would like to formally congratulate the Republican of Azerbaijan for the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, and I look forward to continued strong relations between the United States and Azerbaijan for many years to come.

JOINT TASK FORCE TO COMBAT OPIOID TRAFFICKING ACT OF 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my committee's bill, the Joint Task Force to Combat Opioid Trafficking Act.

Dangerous narcotics and other synthetic opioids are fueling a drug epidemic that is destroying people's lives.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), about 115 people die every day from an opioid overdose. Just think about that—115 people every day.

They are not just strangers. They are moms and dads, brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors.

Most of us know someone who has struggled with substance abuse or drug addiction.

We cannot allow these numbers to climb. We have to reverse this dangerous trend. We need to act together now.

I am proud to say that the Committee on Homeland Security has been taking action on this issue.

Recently, President Trump signed our INTERDICTION Act. This bill provides CBP with additional funds and resources to screen and detect synthetic opioids at the border.

Today, we held a field hearing in Pennsylvania to review ways to strengthen coordination at the local, state, and federal levels in our fight against drugs.

We are taking many positive steps, but we must do more.

We can start by passing this bill that establishes a Joint Task Force at DHS to prohibit narcotics, such as fentanyl, and others from entering the United States.

It also strengthens partnerships between federal agencies and the private sector.

This is a unifying cause. Stopping the flow of drugs into our country will allow more Americans to follow their dreams and build a bright future.

I would like to thank Congressman LANDEVIN and Congressman PETER KING for their leadership and hard work on this issue. And I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on June 19, 2018, I was unavoidably detained due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 269, and YEA on Roll Call No. 270.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on June 19, 2018, I missed a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on No. 269 and 270 and I would have voted "NAY" on No. 271.

BACKUP IS COMING FOR HOUSTON'S FIRST RESPONDERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Harvey pushed Houston first-responders to the limit. While groups like the Cajun Navy and other private citizens provided invaluable support to the Houston community in helping with emergency relief, peace officers and firefighters were under-equipped to deal with the massive flooding that displaced thousands from their homes. With only old and decrepit boats at their disposal, they were forced to conscript canoes and kayaks.

To put it simply, they needed more boats.

The Houston Fire Department requested 20 boats from the city to help bolster their water

rescue fleet, but the city was strapped for cash and could not feasibly pay for 20 boats on their own. Luckily, one group decided to step up and help.

The 100 Club donated 14 new rescue boats to first responders in Houston and Harris County. The group gave the Houston Police Department and the Harris County Sheriff's Office five boats each and the Houston Fire Department four. This will provide a much-needed boost to the fleets of these departments, who are now only in need of just a handful of boats from the city.

The 100 Club has a history of helping Houston's finest. The organization has provided millions of dollars in financial aid to the families of fallen officers, scholarships and grants to officers and fire fighters, and equipment for first responders. After observing the water rescue efforts during the hurricane, the group began conversing with the authorities in Houston, who all highlighted the need for more rescue boats.

Mr. Speaker, our first responders provided invaluable assistance to the Houston community during and after Hurricane Harvey, despite their lack of equipment. After all, the tools do not make the man. But the gracious donation by the 100 Club will allow these selfless individuals to serve their communities more effectively. The generosity shown is just another example of why the greatest people on earth live in America: they will always help each other.

And that is just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Tuesday, June 19, 2018, due to cancellations and delays to my scheduled return flights to Washington.

If I had been able to vote, I would have voted as follows:

On H.R. 5687, the SOUND Disposal and Packaging Act, I would have voted "yea."

On H.R. 5676, the SENIOR Communities Protection Act, I would have voted "yea."

On the Journal Vote, I would have voted "nay."

DR. TODD GRAHAM PAIN MANAGEMENT, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY ACT OF 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6110, the Dr. Todd Graham Pain Management, Treatment, and Recovery Act of 2018. Introduced by my colleague on the Ways and Means Committee, Representative JACKIE WALORSKI, this legislation would direct the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to conduct a review on how to improve the use of non-opioid treatments for pain management for Part A and B Medicare beneficiaries.

The opioid crisis has been devastating communities across the nation for far too long. We need to take immediate steps to reduce the overprescribing of opioids and ensure patients have access to non-addictive pain management options.

Among the actions we can take to prevent addiction is to remove perceived financial incentives for doctors to prescribe generic opioids instead of non-opioid alternative drugs and medical devices, which are typically more expensive. I am pleased to see the text of my bill, H.R. 5778—Promoting Outpatient Access to Non-Opioid Treatments Act, incorporated into H.R. 6110, to address this issue. The legislation instructs CMS to identify possible payment barriers in the Medicare program and consequently asks the Secretary to consider appropriate revisions to the reimbursement structure. It is a commonsense solution to guarantee doctors have the best tools available to deter opioid dependence.

By examining ways to expand the use of non-opioid alternatives in Medicare, we can help cut the problem off at the source, while still being sensitive to patients' pain management needs. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this bill and urge its immediate passage.

HONORING WULFGANG LAWSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Wolfgang Lawson. Wulf is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 288, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Wulf has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Wulf has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Wulf has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Wolfgang for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING CARMEN DEVRIES FOR HER STATE TITLE IN THE CLASS 1A 400-METER DASH

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carmen DeVries, as the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Class 1 A 400 meter dash gold medalist in the 2018 track and field state championships.

This was DeVries' fourth trip to the state championships, and she was determined to go home with a gold medal her senior year. She

persevered and completed the 400 meter dash with a first place time of 57.04 seconds. In the same competition, she also achieved a bronze medal in the triple jump, stretching for 37ft., 4¼ inches in the Class 1A triple jump. DeVries also earned her personal best time in the 400 meters with a time of 57.95 seconds, which set the new school record at Lena-Winslow High School. I want to commend this student athlete on her tremendous accomplishments and work ethic. It takes a great deal of discipline and talent to be awarded such titles. The great state of Illinois is very proud that our small towns produce giant athletes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again formally acknowledge Carmen DeVries on winning the first place title in the IHSA state competition for the 400 meter dash. I join the community in congratulating her and we look forward to seeing her future achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATHERINE M. CLARK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last night inclement weather caused travel delays, and as a result I missed roll call vote number 269. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

HONORING AARON D. NERO, JR.

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron D. Nero, Jr. Aaron is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 288, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Aaron has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Aaron has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT NICHOLAS CORDES

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nicholas Cordes of Avoca, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Nicholas is a member of Boy Scouts Troop No. 97 in Avoca, and he is a student at AHSTW High School in Avoca.

The Eagle Scout designation is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5 percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Nicholas's Eagle Scout Project was the painting of the large picnic shelter in Avoca's Edgington Memorial Park. The work ethic Nicholas has shown in his Eagle Project, and every other project leading to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Nicholas and his family in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish him continued success in his future education and career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call votes 269, 270 and 271 on Tuesday, June 19, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call votes 269 and 270, and Nay on Roll Call vote 271.

HONORING PATRICK STEINKAMP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Patrick Steinkamp. Patrick is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 288, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Patrick has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Patrick has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Patrick has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Patrick for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.